

## Urbana Rural Fire Department, Inc. Receives \$2,695 Grant For First Responder And Rescue Equipment

The Urbana Rural Fire Department, Inc. received \$2,695 in a Mock Check presented by Congressman Ike Skelton on April 22, 2005 at the Urbana Baptist Church Community Building. Grant funds will be used to purchase first responder and rescue equipment to better enable personnel to protect life and property of the estimated 3,400 residents in portions of Dallas, Hickory, and Polk Counties and the incorporated city limits of the City of Urbana within the Rural Fire Department's service area.

Jerry Finley, Area Director, USDA Rural Development said, "It is always gratifying to see Rural Development funds invested in improving the quality of services provided to our rural communities."

President Jim Brown expressed his appreciation, "The Urbana Rural Fire Department wishes to thank USDA, Rural Development, and a very special thanks to Vickie Umfleet. The grant funds enabled the fire department to purchase items we never could afford before. This new equipment will enhance the capability of our firemen and allow us to be of better service to our area residents."

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Ike Skelton for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for the community." Branum added, "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Leon Melvin, Rural Development Manager, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO, 65802, or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 4 or by email to [leon.melvin@mo.usda.gov](mailto:leon.melvin@mo.usda.gov).



Left to Right: Congressman Ike Skelton; Nathan Correll, Field Representative for Senator Talent; Vickie Umfleet, Retired Rural Development Area Specialist; Patrick Morrow, Field Representative for Senator Bond; Jerry Finley, Rural Development Area Director; Jim Brown, President of the Board of Directors of Urbana Fire Department, Inc.; Steve Kenall, Police Chief; Anita Reed-Hooper, Urbana First Responder Captain.

**"Committed to the future of rural communities."**

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